that may be used in methods such as for detecting an Fkh^{sf} polypeptide, isolating an Fkh^{sf} polypeptide, and modulating the activity of an Fkh^{sf} polypeptide.

In the Specification:

Please amend the Title of the Application to read as follows:

Methods for Detecting a Wild-Type Fkh^{sf} Gene Product and Its Human Ortholog and for Detecting a Mutant Fkh^{sf} Gene Product Causing the Mouse Scurfy Phenotype

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of United States Patent Application No. 09/372,668, filed August 11, 1999, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,414,129, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/096,195, filed August 11, 1998. The contents of all the above applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 depicts a nucleotide sequence of mouse *Fkh^{sf}* cDNA (Sequence I.D. No. 1); translation is predicted to initiate at position 259 and terminate at position 1546.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 3 depicts a nucleotide sequence of 1869 bp corresponding to human *FKHsf* cDNA (Sequence I.D. No. 3; including a 1293 bp coding region); translation is predicted to initiate at position 189 and terminate at position 1482.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Antibodies which modulate the immune system may readily be prepared given the disclosure provided herein. Within the context of the present invention, antibodies are understood to include monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, anti-idiotypic antibodies, antibody fragments (*e.g.*, Fab, and $F(ab')_2$, F_V variable regions, or complementarity determining regions). As discussed above, antibodies are understood to be specific against Fkh^{sf} if they bind with a K_a of greater than or equal to 10^7 M^{-1}, preferably greater than of equal to 10^8 M^{-1}. The affinity of a monoclonal antibody or binding partner, as well as inhibition of binding, can be readily determined by one of ordinary skill in the art (*see* Scatchard, *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 51*:660-672, 1949).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 3 shows the nucleotide sequence of the 1869 bp cDNA obtained to date (including an 1293 bp coding region); translation is predicted to initiate at position 189 and terminate at position 1482. Figure 4 shows the sequence of the 431 amino acid human FKH^{sf} protein. Comparison of the predicted coding region of the human gene to the mouse cDNA sequence reveals nearly identical exon structure and 86.1% amino acid sequence identity across the entire protein.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 20-23 to read as follows:

20. (Amended) A method of detecting the presence of an Fkh^{sf} polypeptide in a biological sample, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting said biological sample with an antibody, or an antibody fragment thereof, that specifically binds to an Fkh^{sf} polypeptide that comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, under conditions that allow binding of said antibody or antibody fragment to the Fkh^{sf} polypeptide; and